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State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

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PRESS RELEASE

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State Agencies Continue to Assist Concordia Parish

Residents seeking preventive health services directed to Catahoula due to water shortage

Baton Rouge, LA (August 29, 2011) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Louisiana Army National Guard (LANG) and the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) continue to respond to the water shortage in the Town of Ferriday. Today, Ferriday received four more military water tanks in addition to the 14 received last Friday. Ten more water tanks should arrive tomorrow totaling 28 water tanks. A 5,000 gallon tanker to refill the stationary tankers is also expected to arrive tomorrow.

Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH):

Effective Monday, August 29, 2011 at noon, the Concordia Parish Health Unit (PHU) in Ferriday is closed. The Ferriday water system lost its only functioning filter, and the PHU no longer has access to potable water, which is necessary for operation. DHH relocated Concordia PHU staff to the Catahoula PHU in Jonesville, which is approximately 15 miles from Ferriday, to ensure the needs of both parishes' residents are met.

Currently, the Catahoula PHU provides vital records services Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; nursing services, including family planning, WIC, STD, TB, and immunizations, are provided along with vital records services Thursday and Friday. In response to this event, family planning, STD, WIC, TB, immunizations and vital records services will be available to both Catahoula and Concordia residents Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. until the Concordia PHU reopens. DHH has also requested that one water tank is placed at the Concordia PHU to provide potable water and enable the PHU to serve the residents from the more convenient location as soon as possible.

DHH engineers remain in constant communication with the Ferriday water system operators as they work to alleviate these issues.

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